GEHLEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Thursday, August 14, 2025

The Gehlen Catholic Board of Education met on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Kolker Library/Media Center. The following members were present: Dr. Amanda Anderson, Mr. Bryan Paulson, Mr. Todd Ellensohn, Mrs. Nikki Conger, Mr. Jose Munoz, Mrs. Kelsey Langel, Mr. Josh Sievers, Mr. Doug Klein, Mrs. Kathryn Langel, and Mrs. Peggy Sitzmann via phone. Also, in attendance were Mrs. Patty Lansink, Deacon Mark Prosser, Mrs. Amy Jungers, and Mrs. Allie Freking.

Mr. Ellensohn called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Ellensohn led the opening prayer at 6:00 PM

Public Forum-

Mr. Ellensohn stated that there were no petitions submitted for the board meeting, but 15 minutes will be allowed for the public forum. He also said that with the changes this week at school, he understands that there are a lot of emotions, but those who speak must be respectful and professional.

Mrs. Patty Hatting shared how she wants to remain neutral. She is on the leadership team, and she is concerned about not having anything ready for school because she has other duties to take over since she is on the leadership team. She is spending hours on what an administrator should be doing. This timing is hard for teachers. We would like to be told about these changes before others are. She feels blindsided.

Mrs. Jessica Brady said that whenever something big happens, she turns to prayer. At this time there is no priest here and we cannot go to him, so she is upset. She said that teachers and staff usually have our leader here to go to, and it's hard not having her here.

Mrs. Lisa Whitehead stated that she is here as a parent and is wondering where we are going with inclusion. Her son has shown so much growth academically and behaviorally, and she is concerned about the future.

Mrs. Nancy Holtgrewe and Mrs. Pat Beitelspacher both shared that Gehlen is a Christian School, and we need to act as Christians. Inclusion must be continued.

Mr. Gus Perez expressed that this should be about inclusion, not exclusion. The kids' faces light up when they see our elementary principal in and outside of school.

Mrs. Kelsey Langel motioned to approve the June School Board meeting minutes. Mr. Klein seconded the motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

Standing Reports -

A. **President** – Dr. Anderson stated that the desire to play sports at Le Mars Community survey went out – a handful of students said they would be interested in trying sports at Le Mars Community.

B. **Principals** – Mr. Paulson mentioned that he gave a tour today. He said that the gym renovation is not complete. Loi is waiting on some equipment.

C. **Finance** –Mr. Ellensohn stated that finance will be discussed during New Business.

D. **Development and Enrollment Management** – Mrs. Jungers has nothing to add

E. **Technology** – Report was included

F. **Campus Ministry** – Report was included

G. **J-Club** – Mr. Paulson stated that there were J-Club parent meetings yesterday. There was lower attendance, so Mr. Loutsch is reaching out to those who were absent. Everything is going to be on the Bound App this year. He mentioned that Gehlen is not cashless yet, but we will be transitioning in a year or two. It will be $7 for admission to high school sporting events.

H. **Fine Arts Boosters** – Mrs. Jungers has nothing to add

I. **Standing Committees** – nothing to add

OLD BUSINESS- all items have been tabled until September.

A. Expense Approval Policy- third read
B. Capping Classes
C. Certificate of Attendance Policy- second read

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Corporate Resolution** –
Resolved, that the Bishop, the President, Pastor and other lay member(s) as noted are hereby authorized and empowered to establish and maintain one or more checking accounts, savings accounts, investment accounts and brokerage accounts for the purpose of purchasing, investing or selling cash and/or any form of securities for the Gehlen Catholic School System, LeMars, Iowa.
   - Dr. Anderson has been added as an authorized signer.

Mrs. Kelsey Langel motioned to approve the Corporate Resolution. Mrs. Conger seconded the motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

B. **Articles** - **tabled until September**
C. **Bylaws** - **tabled until September**
D. **FEH Contract** – Mrs. Kelsey Langel asked about the Tier 2 – Goal -she asked about Asbestos removal. She said that Brittany Ruba said it is rolled into the capital campaign costs. About Exclusions – She stated that compensation for FEH was in line with what they expected. This was also included the capital campaign dollar asks.

Mrs. Conger motioned to approve the FEH Contract. Mr. Munoz seconded the motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

E. **Construction Manager: Wiltgen Construction RFP and Contract** – Dr. Anderson is reviewing the proposal and previous work done by Wiltgen. Mr. Ellensohn stated that Wiltgen has done a lot of work in the school and church construction. The finance committee already approved the Wiltgen Construction RFP and contract.

Mrs. Kelsey Langel motioned to approve the Wiltgen Construction Proposal and Contract. Mr. Klein seconded the motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

F. **Professional Development** - Dr. Anderson said Finance approved $10,000 for this and feels it's very important to invest in the teachers/leaders. She reviewed the proposal of the Professional Development Fund with the board.

Mrs. Conger motioned to approve the Professional Development fund of $10,000. Mrs. Kathryn Langel seconded the motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

G. **Tech Club/Video Boards Stipend Position-** Dr. Anderson stated that this was talked about in the past – She attached a description – this position would be the advisor of the club…they would participate in different events/activities. They are listed in the packet. Stipend suggestions were provided. The Asst Coach Level was approved by Finance. Mr. Sievers talked about how great this opportunity is – he loved watching Kale P. last year during the basketball game streams. Mrs. Kelsey Langel mentioned how great it is to show people what we are using money for.

Mr. Sievers motioned to approve the Tech Club/Video Boards Stipend Position. Mrs. Conger seconded the motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

H. **Strategic Planning Workshop** – Dr. Anderson noted that Tom Sweda will lead the board in a Virtual Strategic Planning workshop. This will be from 6-8 pm on September 11.

I. **September Board Meeting Time**- Dr. Anderson is moving the board meeting to 5:00 due to strategic planning starting at 6:00.

At 6:39, Mrs. Conger made a motion to enter executive session. Mr. Klein made a second motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.
At 8:03, the school board exited the executive session. Mr Munoz led the closing prayer. **At 8:04, Mrs. Conger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Kelsey Langel made a second motion. All board members approved, and the motion carried.**

Next Board Meeting: September 11th, 2025

Special Board Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2025

On Monday, August 25, all school board members attended a meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:12 pm. Father Doug Klein led prayer. At 5:14, Mrs. Conger made a motion to enter executive session, and Father Dan Greving made a second. All board members approved, and the motion carried. At 5:59, the board exited the executive session. Mrs. Kelsey Langel made a motion to accept Mrs. Andrea Loutsch's resignation. The second motion was made by Mr. Doug Klein. All board members approved and the motion carried. At 6:00, Father Dan Greving made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mrs. Sitzmann seconded. All board members approved, and the motion carried.

Allie Freking
Recording Secretary